

MSOM PLEVEN'S CAMP EXPERIENCE IN SANDANSKI AND PETRICH

A vast statue of Spartacus welcomes us to Sandanski. Nestled between the Pirin, Belasitsa and Ograzden mountains, Sandanski is a town of a rich and varied history. One would be hard



pressed to find a more beautiful place to celebrate the beginning of Spring: Martenitsa. For MSOM Pleven, Sandanski was the perfect opportunity to get involved more concretely with MSOM's medical outreach program. Guided by our experienced colleagues from MSOM Sofia and MSOM Plovdiv, MSOM Pleven assisted with the "No Bad Blood" Onco-Hematology camp held in Sandanski and Petrich.

It would be a disservice to say that Sandanski's beauty lay only in its surroundings. The town itself is a peaceful and vibrant celebration of Spring. The people of Sandanski were encouraging, cheerful and welcoming. When the camp opened its doors on Baba Marta Day, a long line of Sandanski's citizens were already waiting to be examined and screened.



As the day wore on, more patients walked through our doors. At our Petrich station, the day was busier but the perseverance of a collective team effort, leadership from our camp physicians, and the constant support from all of our colleagues led us into a successful day.



There were many lessons we learnt from the Onco-Hematology camp. We learnt of the diversity of the human experience from our patients, some of whom had travelled from remote villages in the Bulgarian countryside. The indomitable spirit of human

perseverance manifested itself in the many patients we had the privilege to meet. As the sun set over this beautiful town and the camp drew to a close, the MSOM team enjoyed chocolates gifted by our patients. We were reminded of the reasons we study medicine and the camp reaffirmed our conviction that as medical students, we too can play an important part in community health.

The gratitude of MSOM Pleven is directed towards our patients, towards the town of Sandanski and to our colleagues from MSOM Sofia and Plovdiv, without whom this camp would've been impossible.

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